

*Attorney docket MAE 308***REMARKS**

Amended independent claim 1 recites two printing units both having movable printing heads that travel over the printing medium as in the first embodiment (page 9, lines 1-25). The two printing units may be low-cost units such as an ink-jet printing unit and a serial dot-matrix printing unit, providing the advantages of both types of printing in a low-cost printer. Specifically, attractive color printing is combined with the capability to print multiple copies by using multi-ply printing media.

New independent claim 26 recites a slack forming unit for forming slack in the printing medium between the first and second printing units, as illustrated in Figs. 13 and 15A-15E and described in the paragraph bridging pages 18 and 19. The slack forming unit can absorb a difference in printing speeds between the first and second printing units. The advantage is that when the second printing unit is a relatively low-speed unit, it need not delay the operation of the higher-speed first printing unit.

The new elements recited in the new dependent claims are:

in claims 20 and 21, the means for transporting the printing medium (e.g., roller 24a in Fig. 1);

in claim 22, a pair of sensors (25, 26 in Fig. 1); and

in claim 25, a data receiving unit (50 in Fig. 5) Relevant descriptions are given on pages 8 (lines 21-24) and 10 (lines 3-34)

Original claims 1-19 were rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Taylor et al. '350. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Taylor describes a printer with an electrophotographic (xerographic) printing unit and an ink-jet printing unit. An electrophotographic printing unit does not have a movable printing head that travels over the printing medium, so independent claim 1 is distinguished from this disclosure. No slack forming unit is shown or suggested, and independent claim 26 is also distinguished by this.

The independent claims are also distinguished from the other references, as follows:

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Sakaizawa et al., like Taylor, teaches an image forming apparatus with an electrophotographic printing unit and an ink-jet printing unit, and fails to teach or suggest a slack forming unit.

Maeda teaches a printing apparatus with a first print section and a second print section. The first print section includes multiple relatively low-speed (e.g., ink-jet) printing machines operating on parallel paths. The second print section includes one relatively high-speed (e.g. stencil) printing machine. A stencil printing machine employs a printing drum (21) that rotates in a fixed position, rather than a movable printing head that travels over the printing medium. No slack forming unit is shown or suggested.

Tsobe, like Taylor et al, teaches an image forming apparatus with an electrophotographic printing unit (50) and an ink-jet printing unit (20). A slack forming unit is disclosed (Col. 8, lines 30-39) , but the slack forming unit is located between the printing medium cassette (67) and the registering rollers (65, 66), not between the electrophotographic and ink-jet printing units.

Tomimori teaches a sheet processing apparatus, mountable on a copying machine, that has stamping and punching mechanisms for marking sheets discharged from the copying machine. No movable printing heads that travel over the printing medium are disclosed in the copying machine or the stamping and punching mechanisms. No slack forming unit is disclosed.

Katayama teaches an electrophotographic printer that can form an embossed image by using both toner powder and a thermoplastic resin powder. No movable printing head or slack forming unit is disclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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